Lovely Strange Dark

TOUMEI NINGEN NO KOI
"INVISIBLE GIRL IN LOVE"
BY ANDOU YUKI
CHAPTER 4

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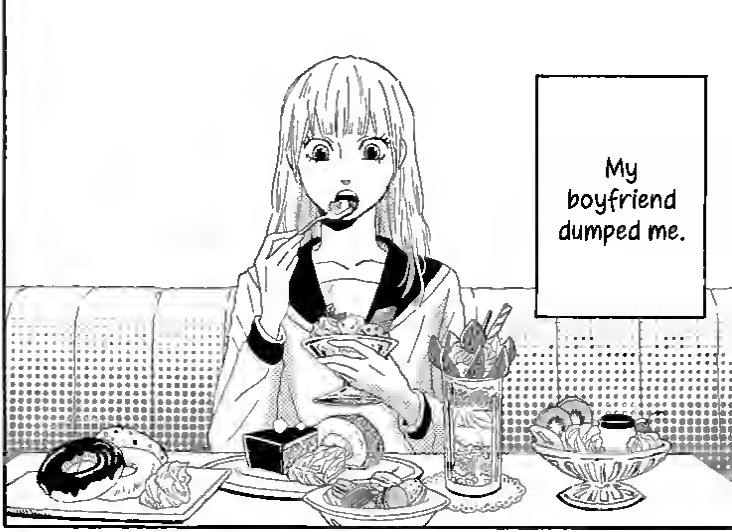
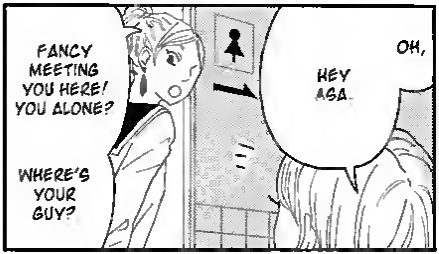
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

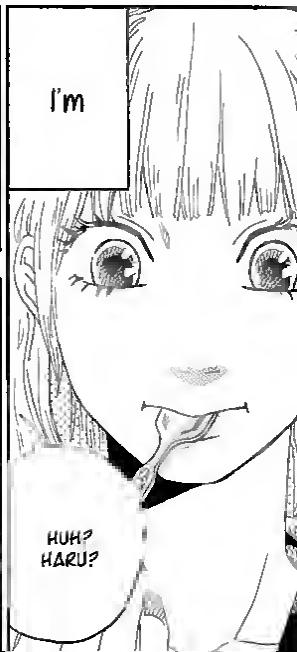
勝手な2人

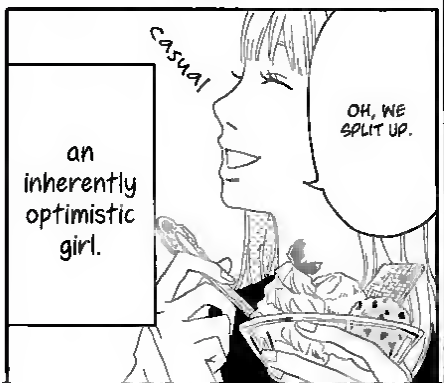
Katte na Futari

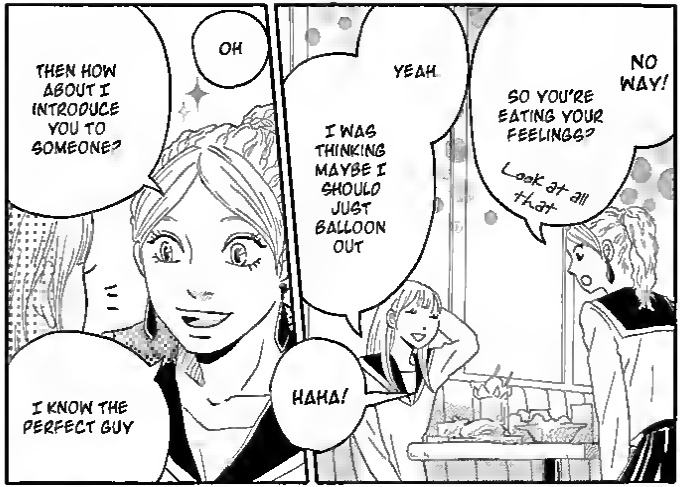
TWO of us


My boyfriend dumped me.


FANCY MEETING YOU HERE! YOU ALONE?
WHERE'S YOUR GUY?
OH, HEY ASA.

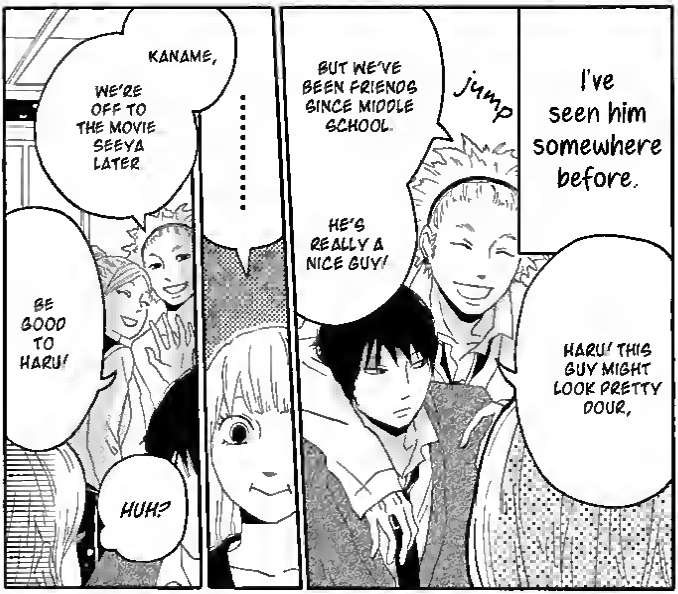

I'm
HUH? HARU?


an inherently optimistic girl.
CASUAL
OH, WE SPLIT UP.


NO WAY!
SO YOU'RE EATING YOUR FEELINGS?
Look at all that
YEAH
I WAS THINKING MAYBE I SHOULD JUST BALLOON OUT
HAHA!
OH
THEN HOW ABOUT I INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE?
I KNOW THE PERFECT GUY

OVER THERE
Peace!
HUH?
BOTH OF THEM?
NO NO, THE ONE ON THE RIGHT IS MINE.
I MEAN THE QUIET ONE ON THE LEFT

Plain
...HELLO.
I'M KANAME, A SENIOR.
OH, HI.
I'M HARUTA. I'M IN THE SAME SCHOOL AS ASA,
HUH?
BUT I'M A SOPHOMORE.


I've seen him somewhere before.
jump
BUT WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HE'S REALLY A NICE GUY!
HARU! THIS GUY MIGHT LOOK PRETTY DOUR,
KANAME,
WE'RE OFF TO THE MOVIE SEEYA LATER
.....
BE GOOD TO HARU!
HUH?

And now it's suddenly just the two of us.
UM.
WERE YOU THREE PLANNING ON WATCHING THE MOVIE TOGETHER?
YOU MUST BE GOOD FRIENDS.
YEAH.
munch munch
.....
UM, KANAME...
YOU USED TO DATE AGA, RIGHT?
YEAH.
munch munch
.....

AND THAT'S NOT AWKWARD?
CASUAL
NOT REALLY
HM?
OH, I GET IT
YOU DON'T MIND BECAUSE SHE NEVER CHEATED ON YOU?
Or something?
NO.
SHE WAS CHEATING ON ME WITH HIM,
BUT I DON'T MIND.
HUH?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT SO EASILY!
DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOUR FRIEND BASICALLY STOLE AWAY YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
HOW'D THAT GO?

This is probably insensitive.
but
DIDN'T IT!?
HUH?
NOT REALLY
THAT WAS THE NORM
clang
Conscience
Curiosity
DIDN'T YOUR RELATIONSHIP
GET ALL DIRTY AND MUDDLED
AND MESSY?
OH.
THEY'D FLIRT
WITH EACH OTHER EVERY DAY.
..so she was cheating on him daily?
Maybe

grab
MM
IT FELT GOOD JUST WATCHING YOU EAT
AHH — THAT WAS DELICIOUS
He's a weirdo.
I SHOULD PROBABLY HEAD HOME
Ate it all
The bill
AND I ATE A TON
I MEAN, WE JUST MET,
AH!
WHY'D YOU TAKE IT?
Clatter
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO TREAT ME
Pulp
Gah!

JUST LET A GUY PICK UP THE BILL
WHEN YOU'RE EATING AWAY YOUR BROKEN HEART.
This
WELL, DOESN'T REALLY MATTER
I'M JUST A BINGE EATER
I WASN'T REALLY EATING MY FEELINGS,
stalk stalk
UM...
.....

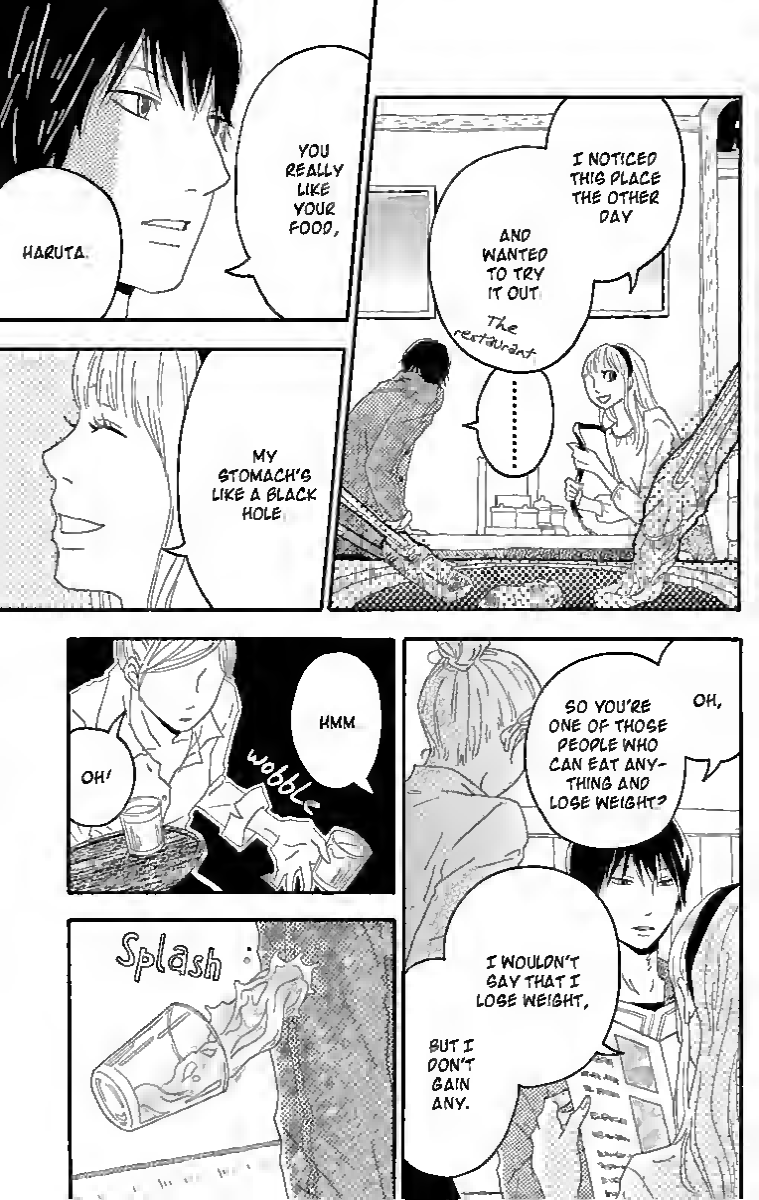
Must be what you'd call chivalry.
HE'S JUST CASUALLY
WALKING ON THE SHOULDER OF THE ROAD
dour
.....
OH, HERE'S FINE.
THANKS FOR WALKING ME HOME.
OH
MIGHT AS WELL
WANNA SYNC ?
our info
SURE
.....
OH, THERE YOU ARE.
WHEN

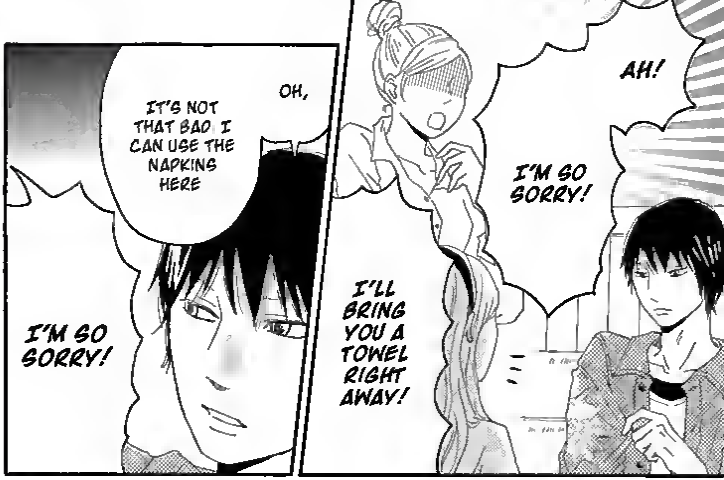
...He likes me.
CAN WE MEET UP AGAIN?
I guess?
From: Kaname
Sub:
Let me know if there's somewhere you want to go
I DON'T REALLY GET HIM...
THEY'D FLIRT WITH EACH OTHER EVERY DAY
THOUGH I DIDN'T GET THAT FEELING FROM HIM AT ALL

.....
Which means
He's blunt,
but he seems like a nice guy.
Then,
WHY IS SHE INTRODUCING PEOPLE TO HIM?
WELL, NOT THAT IT WAS A NORMAL INTRODUCTION...
that there's gotta be something really wrong with him, doesn't it?
DUN
WHAT COULD IT BE!?
OH,
BUT IF THAT WAS THE CASE, ASA WOULDN'T INTRODUCE ME TO HIM, RIGHT?
Hmm?
Anyway,
his girl and his friend flirting with each other every day...

toss
Is just abnormal.
I SHOULDN'T LET IT BOTHER ME SO MUCH
Yeah...
tap tap tap
OH, HEY.
clang
Nakedness
Curiosity
SORRY, I OVERSLEPT.
IT'S OK, I WAS LATE TOO.
PERFECT TIMING.
He... might look plain, but he's got good bones.
And he came up with that white lie

CAN WE REALLY GO ANYWHERE I WANT?
...AND HIS SENSE OF STYLE...
SURE.
A THEME PARK OR AQUARIUM, WHATEVER
IS PRETTY GOOD, I GUESS
He doesn't dress like a geek
or too loudly.
So what's wrong with him!?
Ssst —
Ssst —
Grill Buffet
90min


HARUTA.
YOU REALLY LIKE YOUR FOOD,
MY STOMACH'S LIKE A BLACK HOLE.
I NOTICED THIS PLACE THE OTHER DAY
AND WANTED TO TRY IT OUT.
The restaurant
.....
OH,
SO YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO CAN EAT ANYTHING AND LOSE WEIGHT?
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT I LOSE WEIGHT,
BUT I DON'T GAIN ANY.
HMM
wobble
OH!
Splash


AH!
I'M SO SORRY!
I'LL BRING YOU A TOWEL RIGHT AWAY!
OH,
IT'S NOT THAT BAD. I CAN USE THE NAPKINS HERE
I'M SO SORRY!

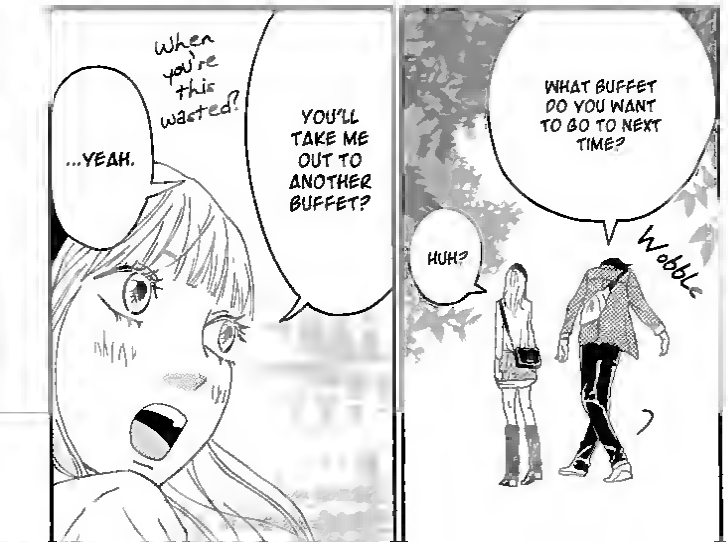
Ssst —
Calm down
SIR
IT'S JUST WATER DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
He treats the waitress well.
.....

He's
grilling my food for me.
HE EATS NEATLY.
.....
HE'S GRILLING MY FOOD FOR ME!
High marks so far
WHAT CUT OF MEAT DO YOU LIKE BEST?
chipper
UM....

SEE?
I TOLD YOU.
UHH...
I DON'T FEEL GOOD...
YOUR STOMACH CAN'T TAKE
EATING AT MY PACE.
. BUT...
IF I GET OUT-EATEN BY A GIRL,
HOW WILL IT LOOK TO YOU...

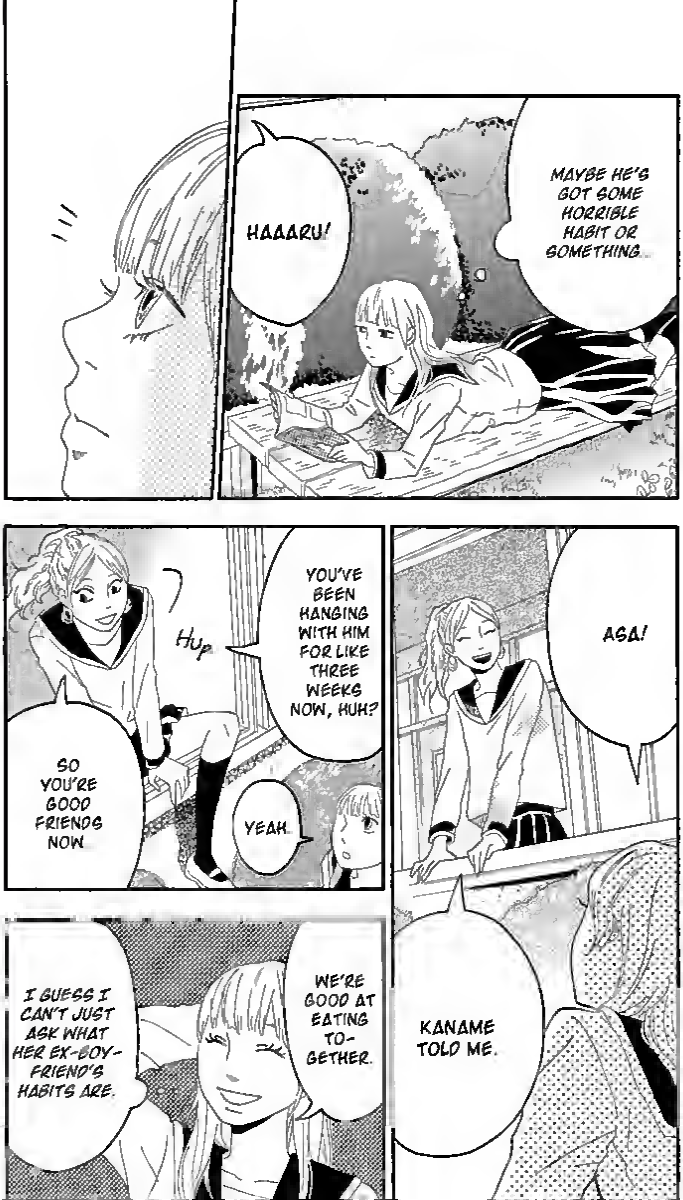
SIR, ARE YOU OK?
OH!
CAN I ORDER SOMETHING ELSE?
gloom
And his hair's cute.

What exactly is wrong with him?
And he's chivalrous.
THAT WAS DELICIOUS.
YEAH
.....
UFF
WH-


WHAT BUFFET DO YOU WANT TO GO TO NEXT TIME?
Wobble
HUH?
YOU'LL TAKE ME OUT TO ANOTHER BUFFET?
When you're this wasted?
...YEAH.

I'LL KEEP ON TRAINING
FOR NEXT TIME.
HA HA!
He's
a nice guy.

I don't see anything wrong with him.
It's all good things.
GEEZ...
GOURMET Guide
Buffet Edition!


HAAARU!
MAYBE HE'S GOT SOME HORRIBLE HABIT OR SOMETHING...
ASA!
KANAME TOLD ME.
WE'RE GOOD AT EATING TO-GETHER.
I GUESS I CAN'T JUST ASK WHAT HER EX-BOY-FRIEND'S HABITS ARE.
YOU'VE BEEN HANGING WITH HIM FOR LIKE THREE WEEKS NOW, HUH?
YEAH.
Hup
SO YOU'RE GOOD FRIENDS NOW.

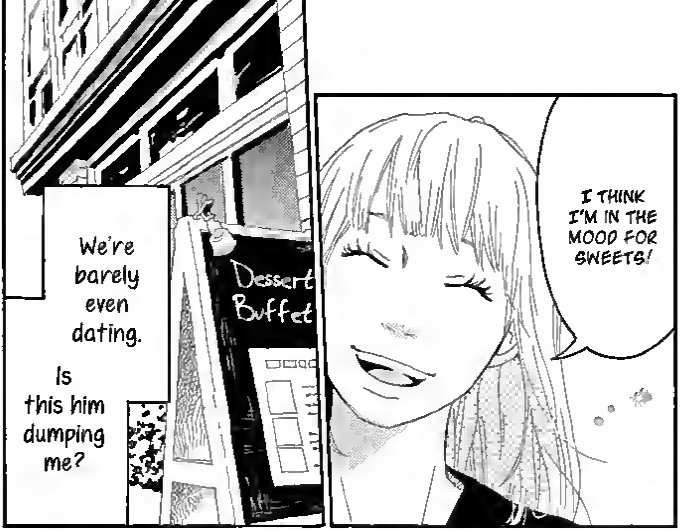
BUT WELL, IF SHE'S THE TYPE OF GIRL WHO'D INTRODUCE AN UNDER-CLASSMAN
GOOD TO HEAR!
EVERYONE IN THE WORLD SHOULD BE HAPPY!
TO HER EX
OK.
KANAME TOLD ME
THAT YOU WERE FLIRTING WITH HIS FRIEND ALL THE TIME
YEAH, PRETTY MUCH
OH...
WHY'S THAT?
Best to be straightforward.

KANAME'S A NICE GUY, YOU KNOW?
SO NICE THAT HE BORED YOU?
That's silly
SO
HE CAN'T BRING HIMSELF TO BREAK UP WITH A GIRL
WHEN WE WERE DATING, WELL...
I'D STARTED THINKING THAT HE'D GOTTEN PRETTY DISTANT WITH ME.
.....
THEN HE INTRODUCED ME TO HIS FRIEND.
SINCE HE AND I HAD A LOT IN COMMON,
WE BECAME CLOSE. THAT'S WHEN KANAME TOLD ME THIS...

HE DOESN'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND RIGHT NOW
HE SAID YOU WERE CUTE, ASAKO
THAT MUST HAVE REALLY BEEN A SURPRISE.
YEAH, A HUGE SURPRISE.
I THOUGHT HE WAS BEING SELF-CENTERED.
BUT THEN I FIGURED OUT THAT HE'S PROBABLY SOMEONE WHO CAN'T BREAK UP WITH A GIRL
HE EVEN DID A GREAT JOB PICKING OUT HIS FRIEND FOR ME
Maybe he's done it before?
BECAUSE YOU FELL FOR HIM?

HAHA! WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HE'S A GREAT GUY WITH A UNIQUE WAY OF BREAKING UP.
I HOPE YOU TWO HAVE FUN!
So that means
he's always the one who gets dumped?
That a "great guy" like Kaname
loses interest in the girl every time?
It's kind of like—

Déjà vu.
—— OH, AND THIS IS HARUTA.
HI.
I'M SETO. I WORK WITH KANAME AT OUR PART-TIME GIG.
WHEN HE SAID YOU EAT A TON, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SO THIN.
……
THEN HE INTRODUCED ME TO HIS FRIEND.
THIS GUY EATS A TON, TOO.
I WAS THINKING HE'D GIVE YOU A RUN FOR YOUR MONEY, HARUTA.
HE AND I HAD A LOT IN COMMON
…TODAY…


We're barely even dating.
Is this him dumping me?
Dessert Buffet
I THINK I'M IN THE MOOD FOR SWEETS!

I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE ELSE WHO COULD EAT THIS MUCH!

WOW, YOU REALLY CAN EAT, HARU!
YOU'RE AMAZING TOO, SETO!

SAME HERE!
AND YOU'RE A GIRL, TOO!

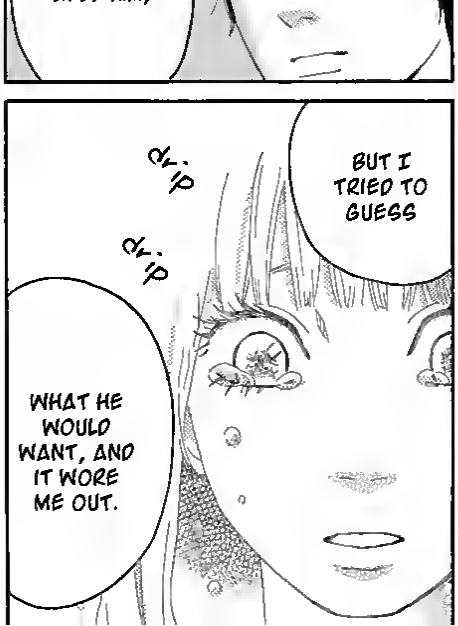
Tie!
OH,
BUT BEING A BIG EATER IS A DISADVANTAGE FOR GIRLS
IT'S NOT ATTRACTIVE
REALLY?
BUT I LIKE GIRLS WHO CAN REALLY EAT.
RIGHT, KANAME?
HM?
YEAH.
IT'S CUTE.

Am I
...I...
afraid of dating now?
COULDN'T EAT ANYTHING IN FRONT OF MY OLD BOY-FRIEND.
HUH?
WHY NOT?
I FIGURED HE WOULDN'T LIKE ME BEING SUCH A PIG
BUT SINCE I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD IS NORMAL,

I COULDN'T EAT A SINGLE BITE.
IT WAS ALL IN MY HEAD.
AND THEN OTHER LITTLE THINGS,
I'D FORCE MYSELF TO DO THEM AND SMILE...
.....
I WAS AFRAID THAT HE WOULDN'T LIKE ME... EVEN THOUGH...
SO,
WHEN HE DUMPED ME
I'M SORRY, HARU.
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE SUFFOCATING ME.

.....
HARU?
...HUH?

I REALLY LIKED HIM,


drip
drip
BUT I TRIED TO GUESS
WHAT HE WOULD WANT, AND IT WORE ME OUT.

IT WAS ACTUALLY A RELIEF.
drip

Lover's quarrel?
What's wrong?
She's crying
Oh!
Seriously? I can't watch this

SETTLE UP FOR ME!
O-
OK
SEEYA TOMORROW
SORRY, SETO.

I GOT WORN OUT
JUST TRYING TO KEEP HIM FROM LOSING INTEREST.
I WAS SO EXHAUSTED
THAT I HOPED HE'D JUST END IT.
.....
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KANAME?

WAS IT
THE SAME THING WITH YOU, KANAME?

.....
I'M NOT AS SENSITIVE AS YOU, HARUTA.
.....
I'M HAPPY JUST WATCHING THE GIRL I LIKE ENJOYING HERSELF.

BUT, I'M NOT VERY SOCIABLE,
AND, I'M NOT A GREAT TALKER
I WASN'T SURE I'D BE ENOUGH TO MAKE HER HAPPY
SO I FOUND SOMEONE WHO I THOUGHT SHE'D GET ALONG WITH,
AND I INTRODUCED THEM
I DID KNOW
THAT IF A GUY AND GIRL WITH A LOT IN COMMON MET,
SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN
BUT SO LONG AS THE GIRL I LIKED
WAS HAPPY,
I WAS OK WITH THAT

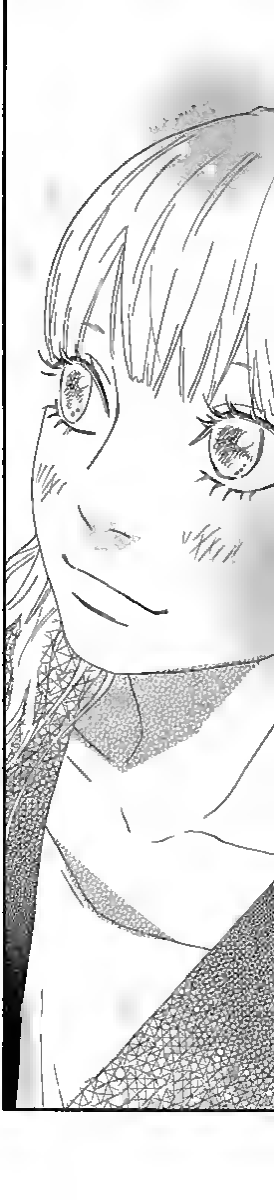
IT WAS ALSO
SOMETHING OF A RELIEF FOR ME.
.....
...SO
...YEAH.
NEITHER OF US HAVE ANY SELF-CONFIDENCE,
HUH.

In that case...
...HARUTA?

Kaname.
I'M MORE THAN HAPPY ENOUGH
JUST BEING WITH YOU!

just guessing what people want.
I
LIKE YOU WHEN YOU'RE BEING YOURSELF, HARUTA.
Let's quit

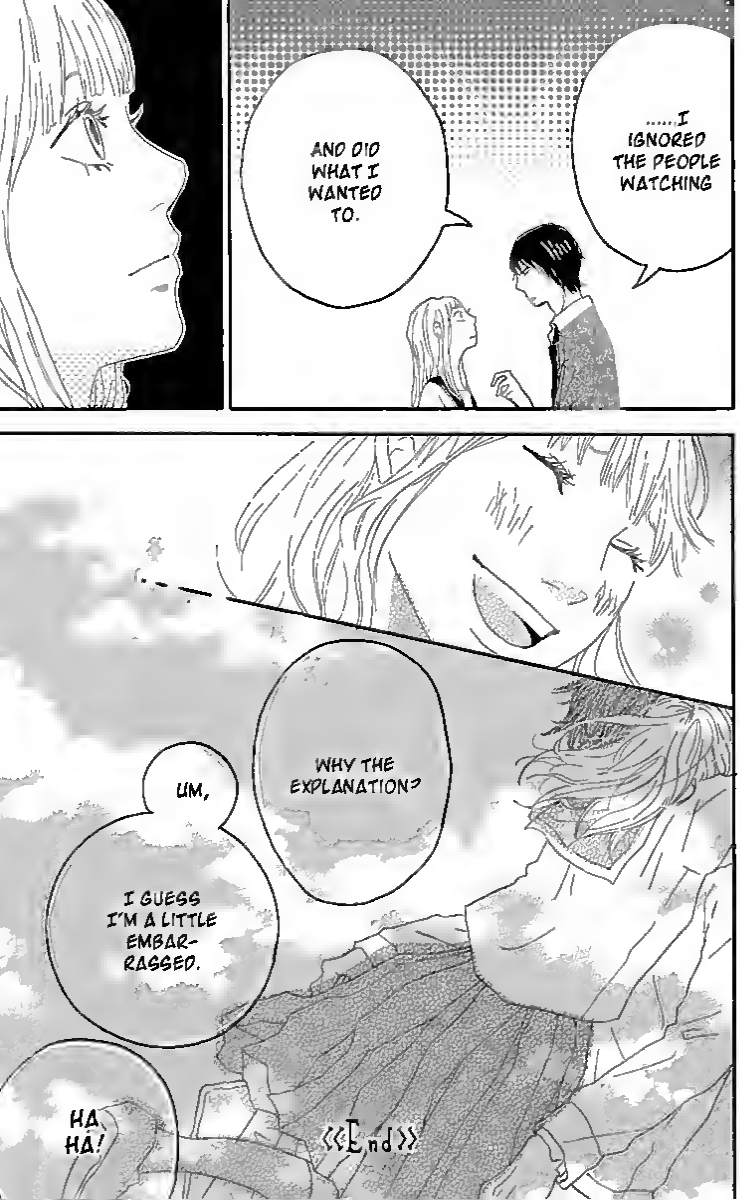
REALLY?
YEAH.
I SHOULD BE MYSELF?
YEAH.



YOU TOO, KANAME

YOU SHOULD BE YOURSELF TOO.
YOU ONLY THINK ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE WANT

HUH.
BUT THAT'S JUST HOW I AM
THAT'S NO GOOD.
Not one bit
BUT EVEN NOW,
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE JUST NOT INTERESTED IN SMILING
I'M NOT
THAT ISN'T RIGHT, YOU KNOW
BE FEARLESS,
AND DO THE THINGS YOU WANT TO DO.
...OK.
THEN...


.....I IGNORED THE PEOPLE WATCHING
AND DID WHAT I WANTED TO.
WHY THE EXPLANATION?
UM,
I GUESS I'M A LITTLE EMBARRASSED.
HA HA!
<<End>>